

"in the last nine months Covid 19 killed more than a million people"

YOUR INVITATION

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Lucel Tate Lecture 2020

Time: 8.00pm - 9.00pm GMT
3.00pm - 4.00pm ECT
12.00pm - 1.00pm PST

Date: Saturday 31 October 2020

Subject: **Yes or No to Vaccination - The impact of Coronavirus Covid 19 on the UK Black population.**

Speaker: Dr Winston Morgan 

A live ZOOM event CLICK to register : www.hibiscuscommunitycentre.co.uk

Background Paper Lucel Tate Lecture 2020

YES OR NO TO VACCINATION: THE IMPACT OF CORONAVIRUS COVID 19 ON THE UK BLACK POPULATION

1. This years' Lucel Tate Lecture addresses the most serious issues faced by the UK's black community since its settlement: **yes or no to taking an unlicensed vaccine** that provides a measure of protection against a virus that killed over a million people in the last nine months.
2. [There is clear evidence that black people are at higher risk of dying from Coronavirus COVID-19 than the rest of the population](#) ...the risk of COVID-19 related death is [more than four times as high for people of black ethnicity than for those of white ethnicity](#).
3. Finding a remedy for the virus has thus far evaded science, and the traditional therapy, a vaccine, is normally seven to nine years in gestation.
4. In response to this situation, government has put forward proposals to make a vaccine widely available, should one be found, as an unlicensed product. These proposals have generated widespread consternation across all sections of society.
5. Today the discussion in the black community as to the merits or not of taking an unlicensed vaccine is informed by the daily torrent of false and misleading information about the virus on social media, and the [characterisation of the motives of those seeking solutions as nefarious](#). These views, rarely unchallenged have significant currency. Urgent is the need in the black community for clarity, and guidance that is science based. To this end, this year's Lucel Tate Lecture has secured the services of a scientist, Dr Winston Morgan, Reader in Toxicology and Clinical Biochemistry, Director of Impact and Innovation, University of East London. Doubtless, his fact base contribution will assist with helping to make informed decisions. The remainder of this note addresses some of the issues generating acute concern in the community..
6. Yes or no to taking a vaccine that protects against Covid 19 is a simple question. For most people personal experience would confirm the value of vaccines (immunisation) in providing protection against the ravages of other pathogens notable: poliomyelitis, whooping cough, measles to name a few. However, in the black community it is not a simple question: argument rages and confusion abounds as to the merits or not of taking an unlicensed vaccine against Covid 19. This situation is in part explained by the

historical experience of deploying experimental medicines in black communities, has led to widespread suspicion and mistrust of those who both propose and administer such programmes. Today this suspicion and mistrust is compounded by Government's proposal to roll out an unlicensed vaccine, for which the normal regulatory framework is cast-aside, whilst the arrangements for individual redress remains opaque.

7. **Changes to Human Medicine Regulations to support the roll out of Covid 19 Vaccines** - a consultation document published by the Government on the 28 August, is wide ranging in its brief in setting out proposals for:
 - authorising temporary supply of an unlicensed vaccines;
 - changes to civil liability and immunity arrangements;
 - expanding the workforce eligible to administer vaccines;
 - promoting vaccines;
 - making provisions for wholesale dealing of vaccines.
8. These proposals have far-reaching implications for black people given their susceptibility to succumb the virus. To date the black community's response to these proposals mirrors its overall response the Coronavirus Act 2020, which consists of an outpouring of negative comment ranging from threats of mass protest to advocating social unrest: a direction of travel that is not in anyone's interest. This direction of travel informed by misinformation about the virus, conspiracies against black people, funky science, track and don't trace, the advice against wearing mask that defies common sense, and want of clear messaging on managing the pandemic. The Consultation exercise is a good example of the lack of clarity in messaging that compounds confusion in the community. Embolden on the front of the Consultation document, is the claim to an open and transparent process. However, in the body of the document it states: "[the purpose of this Consultation exercise is to engage directly with specific stakeholders ... What that means, in practice, is that the consultees are: specialist..that..have a detailed knowledge of the legislative and practical context... and also of the likely impact of the measures...](#)"
Here trust and confidence, critical to successfully combating the virus, is eroded by double speak and disregard for the views and concerns of those most likely to be impacted.
9. The Consultation document as presented adds grist to the mill of confusion, and offers up a number of red flags beyond which the community in the present climate is unlikely to venture. Authorising the supply of an unlicensed vaccine, the centrepiece of the Consultation, places reliance on vaccines to the exclusion of alternative treatments or preventative options, and assumes that vaccines would deliver the best outcome. It is noted that there is no evidence to support the assumption that a Covid 19 vaccine (s) would work. Since 2002, when the first deadly coronavirus infections were identified, no commercially viable vaccine has been found.
10. Further, notwithstanding the progress made over the last decade in vaccine development, the accelerated speed of development months rather than years, normally seven to nine years, inevitable means time saving compromises that may result in a vaccine being approved without reliable data or sound understanding of new technologies upon which vaccines now depend.
11. The Consultation is silent on the subject of transparency of raw data from clinical trials or arrangements for independent assessment: these arrangements effectively places producer interest above all else.

12. Vaccines are known to have side effects. What are the likely side effects? Will people be advised of the side effects in advance? What warning and guidance will accompany the product? How are people to be compensated in the event of injury caused by taking a Covid 19 vaccine? Other red flags include expanding the work force eligible to administer vaccines and providing immunity from civil liability to non-health care agencies and professionals. These proposals shift significantly the balance of rights, responsibility and accountability away from the individual, whilst not reinforcing arrangements for individual redress. As proposed, these arrangements are likely to result in the abuse of Human Rights: [abuses of power in respect of the Health Protection \(Coronavirus, Restrictions\) \(England\) Regulations 2020 have already arisen.](#)
13. Although a statement of the obvious: to successfully roll out an unlicensed Covid 19 vaccine is dependent on public trust and confidence; for which there is no evidence at present. Based on the results of an opinion poll carried out and published on the 20th August by Ipsos Mori and researchers at Kings College London, only 53% of the population would take an unlicensed vaccine. Here it must be noted that there is no published research that has canvassed the opinion of Black people on their willingness to take a Covid 19 vaccine. This when coupled with the absence of evidence indicating a willingness by black people to take an unlicensed vaccine signals' disaster. Already there is anecdotal evidence suggesting outright refusal by black people to taking an unlicensed vaccine. Given the distribution of Black communities in our cities, the failure to address their concerns is likely to result in the failure of Public Health Policy, a loss opportunity to stamp out the virus and further significant loss of black lives.

Originator: Clifford Headley – Company Secretary HCEA
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